BOOM! STUDIOS™

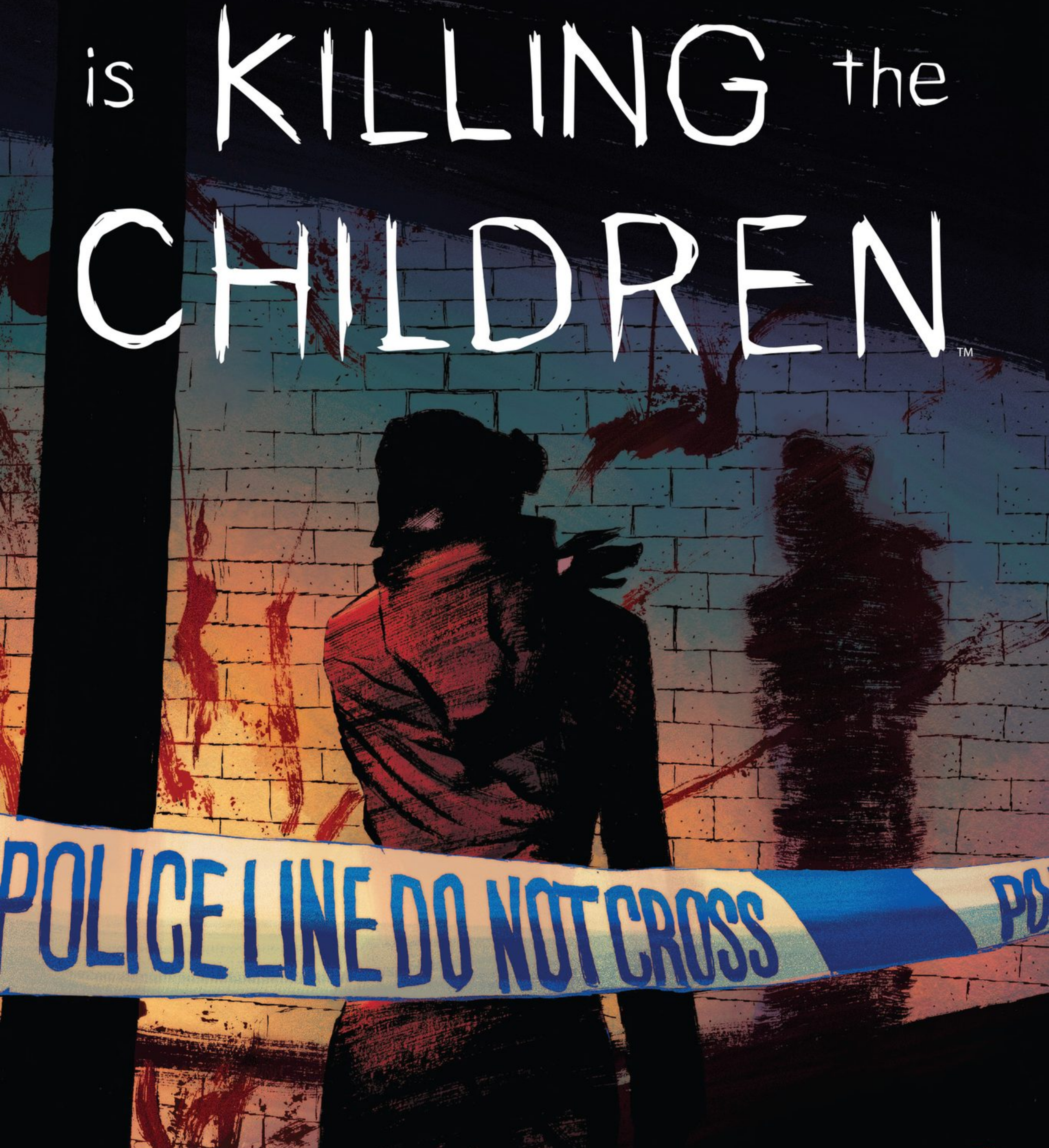
JAMES TYNION IV

WERTHER DELL'EDERA

MIQUEL MUERTO

Nº 23

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™



BRRRINNNG

BRRRINNNG BRRRINNNG

BORK

HOLD YOUR GODDAMN HORSES.

=WHEEEEEZE=

THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, CALLING ME THIS EARLY?

C'MON, BIG GARY...

YOU REALLY GOING TO PRETEND THAT YOU WERE SLEEPING?

'COURSE NOT. HOW'S THE HUNTING IN ALBUQUERQUE?

I'M A WAYS OFF FROM ALBUQUERQUE.

JUST LIKE MY PERSONAL HERO, BUGS BUNNY.

WELL, I *DID* HAVE A GUN POINTED IN MY FACE LAST NIGHT.

YOU GOT PICKED UP, DIDN'T YOU?

YEAH. THEY KEPT ME OVERNIGHT AT THE TRIBULATION SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

OKAY, I CAN SCRUB THAT FOR YOU. KEEP YOU FROM POPPING UP ON THE HOUSE RADAR.

DID I PICK A GOOD ONE FOR YOU THIS TIME?

LOOKING LIKE A *DUPLICITYPE.*

WELL, FUCK.

THE MONSTER THAT WALKS LIKE A MAN. THOUGHT OF THOSE FUCKERS GAVE ME ***NIGHTMARES*** WHEN I WAS A KID TRAINING.

THAT'S HALF THE REASON I DECIDED NOT TO BE A HUNTER. WHY I WENT ***AZURE***...

I CAN HANDLE GETTING OUT OF THIS STATION, BUT THIS...

YEAH, THIS MIGHT BE MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW. I CAN GET THINGS READY IF YOU NEED TO CALL IN THE CAVALRY.

TRY AND MAKE IT SO YOU NEVER SET FOOT IN TOWN. GET A PACK OF ***WHITE MASKS*** IN.

THAT'S ***NOT*** WHAT I WANT.

LOOK, I'M HELPING. I'M KEEPING YOU OFF THE HOUSE'S RADAR, FINDING YOU KIDS TO HELP WITHOUT THE AZURES KNOWING.

password

WHICH IS A FUCKING FEAT, MIND YOU. I ***TRAINED*** THEM, AND I'M NOT HALF AS UP TO DATE ON THE LAST COUPLE DECADES OF SURVEILLANCE TECH.

I'M DOING IT BECAUSE IT WAS SHIT HOW THEY DEALT WITH JESSICA AND IT'S SHIT HOW THEY HANDLED YOU. AND BECAUSE RETIREMENT IS BORING AS FUCK.

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO JUST SIT BACK AND LET YOU GET KILLED BECAUSE YOU'RE FIGHTING WITH MOMMY AND DADDY.

BIG GARY...IT'S MORE THAN THAT. I'M DONE WITH THE ORDER OF ST. GEORGE.

YEAH, STILL NOT WILLING TO LET YOU DIE, KID.

FINE. DO WHAT YOU NEED. CLEAN UP AFTER ME.

BUT WHAT I COULD USE MORE THAN ANYTHING ARE SOME ACCOUNTS ON HOW HUNTERS TOOK THESE DOWN IN THE PAST.

JUST TO HAVE THEM ON HAND.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO COVER MY TAIL PULLING SHIT FROM ***THE LIBRARY?***

TELL THEM YOU WANT TO READ SOME SCARY STORIES.

YEAH. ALRIGHT.

KISS THE PUPPIES FOR ME, OKAY?

EVERY DAY. DON'T DIE, ALRIGHT?

I'LL DO MY BEST.

CLK

OKAY, I'M DONE.

I'D LIKE TO TALK TO THE SHERIFF NOW.

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN

I NEED YOU TO STAY HERE, GABI.

WHY?

BECAUSE I HAVE TO GO TO WORK.

SO WHAT? BRING ME.

I CAN'T BRING A KID TO HANG OUT IN A **BAR** ALL DAY.

I DON'T WANT TO JUST *WAIT* IN YOUR *SHITTY APARTMENT.*

THERE'S STUFF IN THE FRIDGE TO MAKE YOURSELF A SANDWICH. HERE'S CASH TO ORDER A PIZZA FOR DINNER. THERE'S A BUNCH OF MOVIES YOU CAN WATCH ON THE TV.

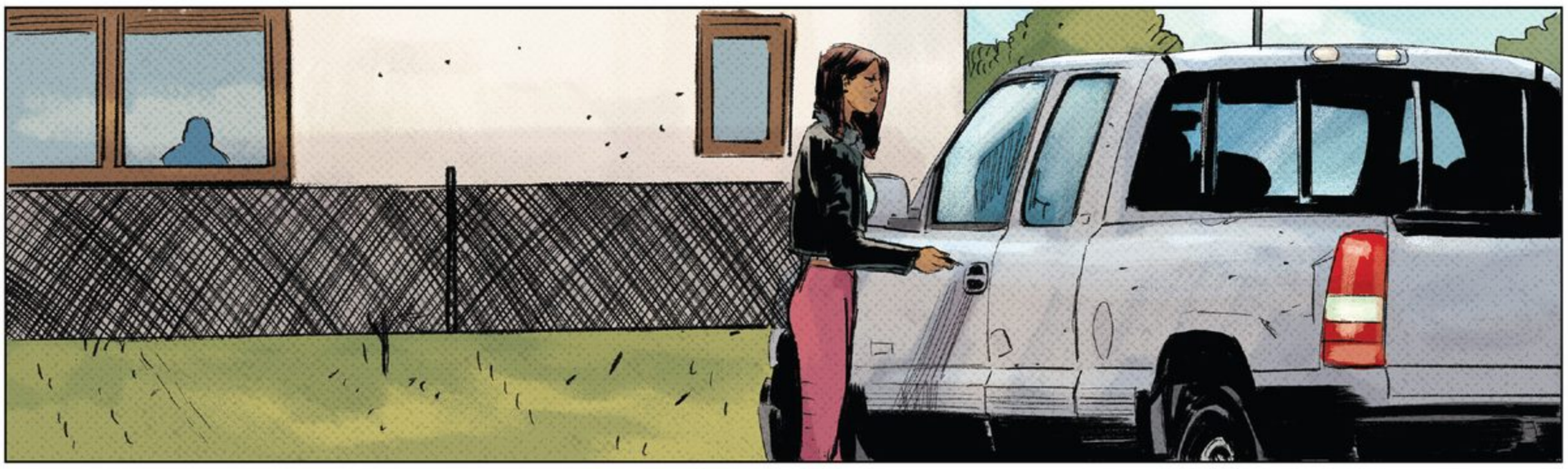
YOU'RE REALLY JUST GOING TO *LEAVE* ME HERE?

YES. DON'T GET INTO TROUBLE.

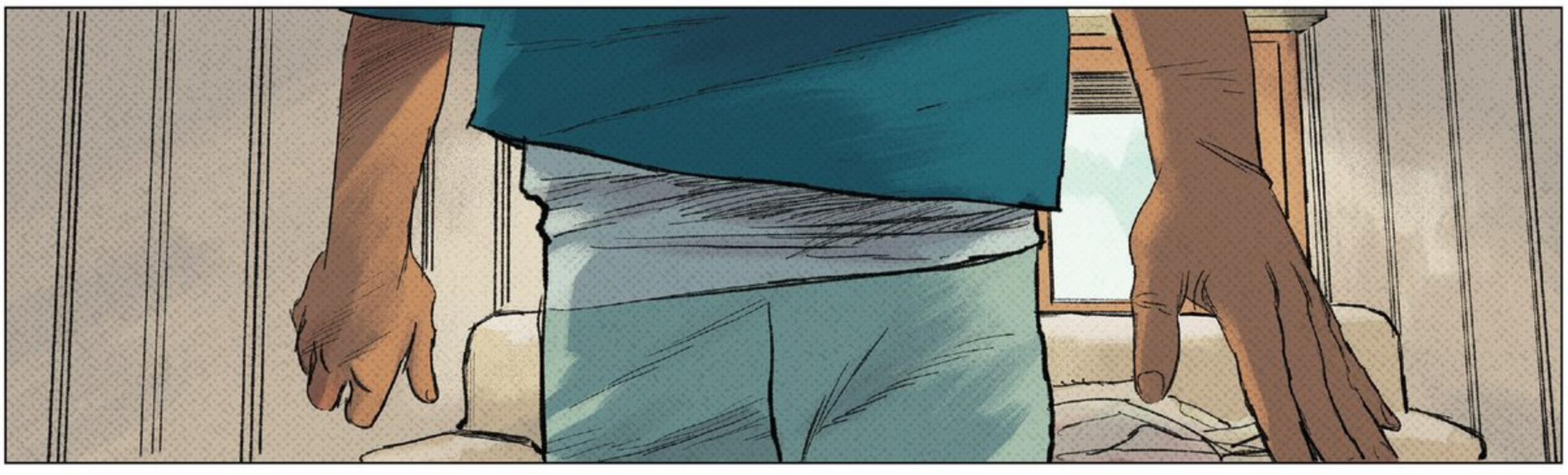
FINE.

SBAM

=SIGH=



SKREEEEEEEEEE



SO... YOUR NAME IS ERICA SOUTER.

NEW YORK STATE DRIVER LICENSE

ERICA SOUTER

2345 MERCHANT AVE NEW YORK, NY 10128

Sex F Height 5'-9" Eyes GREEN

DOB 08/31/1986

Expires 08/31/2026

E NONE

R NONE

Erica Souter

AUG 06

EXCELSIOR

ERICA

SHERIFF THOMAS

YEAH.

YOU'RE A REPORTER FOR THE *NEW YORK DAILY NEWS.*

NEW YORK Daily News

2021

PRESS

PRESS

PRESS PRESS

YEP.

YOU WERE ON THE PREMISES OF THE ***WOLF WATERS*** BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO BREAK THE STORY ABOUT THE ***SERIAL KILLER*** IN TRIBULATION.

SHERIFF THOMAS

THAT'S RIGHT. I WAS THERE TO TAKE PICTURES.

THERE WASN'T A CAMERA IN YOUR BAG.

HM.

BUT THERE WERE THESE *KNIVES.*

WELL. THERE'S A SERIAL KILLER ON THE LOOSE. GOT TO STAY SAFE.

OKAY.

SHERIFF THOMAS

WHY DO YOU WANT TO WRITE THIS STORY?

I FIGURE IT'S...I DON'T KNOW.

IT SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT HOW THERE ARE ALL OF THESE *HORRORS* IN THE LITTLE CORNERS OF THE COUNTRY THAT PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT. BUT THEY REALLY *OUGHT* TO.

YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE A NEW YORKER.

THERE'S *LOTS* OF TYPES OF NEW YORKERS. HAVE YOU EVER *MET* ANYBODY FROM NEW YORK?

LOOK. I CAN'T HAVE YOU BREAKING INTO PRIVATE PROPERTY.

I SHOULDN'T EVEN BE ***COOPERATING*** WITH THE PRESS, BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY PRESS HERE. FOR WHATEVER REASON ***NOBODY ELSE*** IS PICKING UP MY CALLS.

THIS IS ***OFF THE RECORD.*** BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING. SOMEONE IS KILLING CHILDREN IN THESE HOT SPRINGS. CHILDREN I'VE KNOWN FOR THEIR ENTIRE LIVES.

I'VE SEEN ***MOVIES*** WHERE THERE ARE DETECTIVES WHO KNOW ALL OF THESE ***TRICKS*** TO UNDERSTANDING THE MIND OF A KILLER...

BUT I'M ***NOT*** ONE OF THOSE GUYS, WHO CAN JUST PUT MYSELF IN THEIR HEADSPACE. I CAN ***UNDERSTAND*** DESPERATION.

BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND ***MADNESS.***

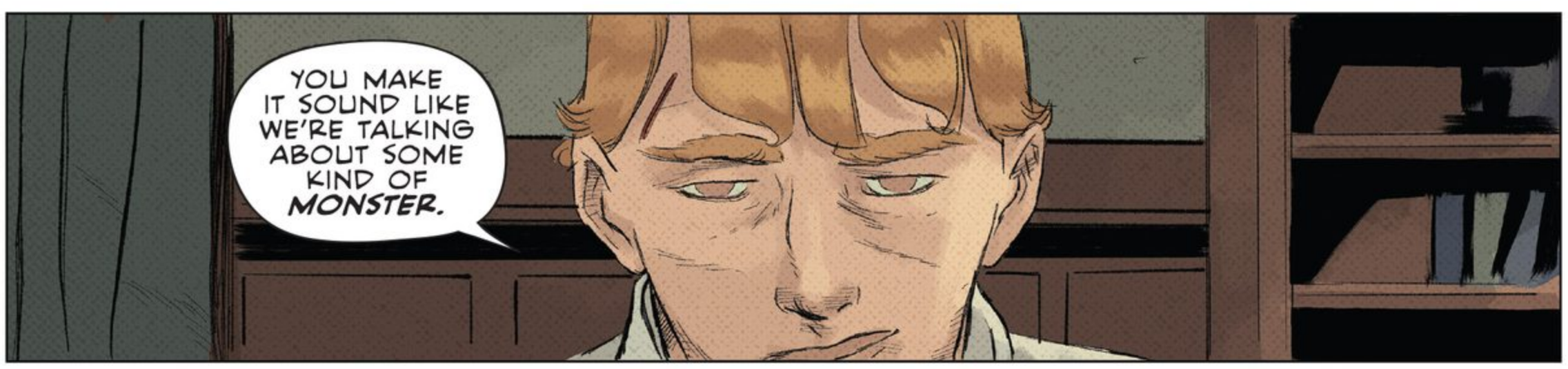
I THINK...

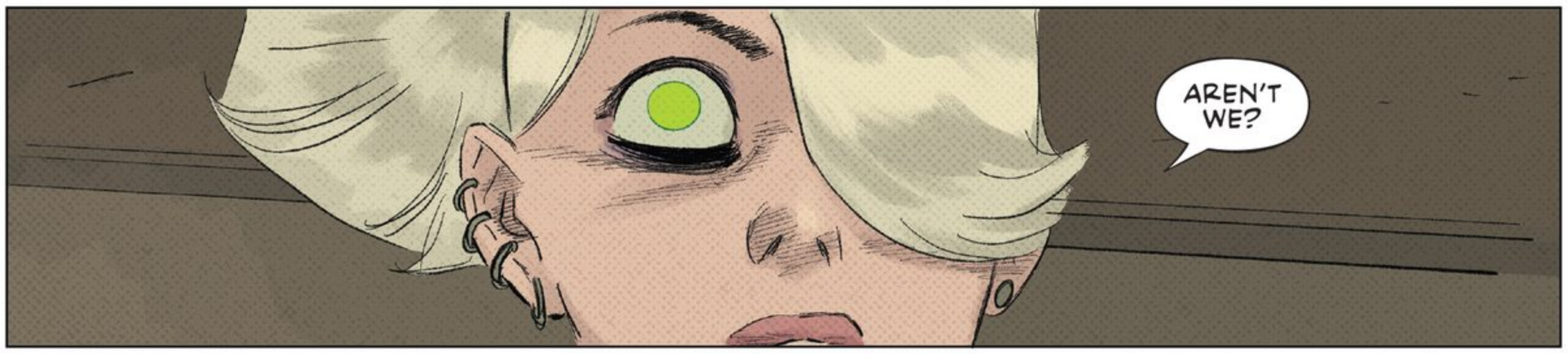
I THINK IT MIGHT BE BEST TO CONSIDER IT A KIND OF, I DON'T KNOW. A KIND OF ANIMAL.

A ***PREDATOR.***

DO YOU HUNT?
SOMETIMES. MORE WHEN I WAS A BIT YOUNGER.

THINK OF THE TYPE OF PREY IT LIKES. THINK OF WHERE IT CAN FIND THAT PREY.


YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SOME KIND OF MONSTER.


AREN'T WE?

HOW MANY HOT SPRINGS ARE THERE IN TRIBULATION?

FUCK, I DON'T EVEN KNOW. BALLPARK, I'D SAY ABOUT ***FIFTEEN.*** AND THEN THERE ARE A FEW MORE THAT HAVE BEEN SHUT DOWN, BUT ***TEENAGERS*** TEND TO USE THEM AS HANGOUT SPOTS.

MOST OF THEM ARE SMALL, ***HOLE-IN-THE-WALL*** PLACES. SOME ARE HOTELS. SOME ARE A BIT ***SEEDIER*** THAN THAT.

WE'RE A TOWN THAT WAS SURE WE'D BE SOME KIND OF ***TOURIST DESTINATION,*** BUT THE PEOPLE NEVER SHOWED UP. IT'S NOT LIKE WE WERE ON ***ROUTE 66*** AND THEN THE PEOPLE DRIED UP.

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A SAD ***DEAD-END DETOUR*** WITH SOME HOT WATER.

DO YOU HAVE A MAP OF THE TOWN, LIKE A PAPER MAP?

FUCK. WHY WOULD I...

ACTUALLY, YES!

HOLY SHIT, I HAVEN'T OPENED THIS CABINET IN ***AGES,*** BUT THE OLD SHERIFF USED TO MAKE US ALL KEEP THESE IN THE CARS IN CASE OUR PHONES DIDN'T WORK.

BIT OUT OF DATE, BUT WE HAVEN'T ADDED ANY NEW STREETS OR ANYTHING.

THANK YOU.

LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DIG UP. TRY AND FIND AN ANGLE ON THE STORY. I WON'T GET INTO TROUBLE WITHOUT CALLING YOU FIRST.

YEAH. OKAY.

AM I FREE TO GO?

YOU'RE NOT ***LYING*** TO ME, RIGHT?

WHAT?

YOU'RE NOT KILLING THESE KIDS AND JUST PLAYING ME AS SOME ***DUMB HICK FOOL,*** ARE YOU?

I DIDN'T HURT THESE KIDS, CARTER. I WANT THEM TO BE SAFE.

OKAY THEN. YOU CAN GO.

Y'KNOW. SHE CAN SERIAL KILL ME *ANY* DAY.

BILL.

WHAT?! I HAVE MANLY NEEDS.

A MANLY NEED TO BE *SERIAL MURDERED* BY A CITY GIRL.

I'M GOING TO LAY DOWN IN MY OFFICE.

FAIR ENOUGH.

IT WAS ABSOLUTELY *HORRIBLE,* EDDIE. WHAT A NASTY LITTLE COUNTRY.

IT RAINED EVERY DAY, AND THE *PEOPLE* THERE...UGH!

Escalator Up To: Concourse B C D Gates 91-B22 Terminal 3 4

EXIT

Escalator Up
Terminals 1 2 3 5
Concourse E E F
Gates B1-B

Baggage Claim
Ground Transport
Trains to City
Animal Relief Area
Elevator

EXIT

I THOUGHT THE BRITS WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE SOME *CLASS.*

YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD HOW THEY *SPOKE* TO ME, EDDIE.

AND IT DIDN'T STOP IN LONDON. THIS LITTLE *BITCH* ON THE PLANE...

SHE HAD THE NERVE TO TELL ME TO KEEP MY VOICE DOWN, WHILE SHE WAS WATCHING SOME *CHILDREN'S* CARTOON, CLUTCHING SOME UGLY DOLL.

A *GROWN* WOMAN!

MS. CUTTER, WELCOME TO CHICAGO.

MY NAME IS CECILIA SLAUGHTER.

CUTTER

THAT'S A GOOD NAME. I LIKE IT. IT SOUNDS LIKE IT HAS SHARP EDGES.

WOULD YOU MIND HOLDING DOLLY FOR A MOMENT?

I...YES, OF COURSE.

THERE.

YOU CAN DEAL WITH ***CLEAN-UPS,*** CAN'T YOU?

I...

YES. OF COURSE.

KILL ALL SECURITY FOOTAGE IN THE BAGGAGE CLAIM AT O'HARE. FREEZE ALL CELLULAR ACTIVITY. WE HAVE A BODY IN THE WOMEN'S RESTROOM BY CLAIM 6.

THAT'S KIND OF YOU.

SHE WAS ***SO RUDE*** ON THE FLIGHT. SHE SAID THINGS ABOUT ***DOLLY.***

I... UNDERSTAND.

DID YOU KNOW HER WELL?

EXCUSE ME?

NOT THE *RUDE LADY* IN THE LOO.

THE ONE I'M HERE TO KILL.

ERICA.

I'VE KNOWN ERICA SINCE SHE WAS VERY YOUNG.

THAT DOESN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION.

I THINK I KNOW HER VERY WELL. SHE WOULD LIKELY DISAGREE.

AND YOU WANT HER DEAD?

I WANT WHAT'S IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE ORDER OF ST. GEORGE.

THAT ISN'T WHAT I *ASKED YOU,* CECILIA.

I *DON'T LIKE* WHEN PEOPLE AREN'T HONEST WITH ME.

THERE WAS A TIME I WOULD HAVE BEEN SATISFIED WITH HER BEING BROUGHT TO HEEL AND KEPT IN LINE. BUT SHE'S DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE.

SAY IT.

I WANT HER DEAD.

YOU DO, DON'T YOU?

WELL DON'T YOU WORRY, CECILIA.

WELCOME TO CHICAGO

I'M HERE TO MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE.

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

"THE ROAD TO TRIBULATION"
PART THREE

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JAMES TYNION IV

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MIQUEL MUERTO

LETTERED BY
ANDWORLD DESIGN

COVER BY
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VARIANT COVERS BY
JENNY FRISON
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SCOTT'S COLLECTABLES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH JAMES TYNION IV
EXCLUSIVE VARIANT COVER BY
STEPHEN SEGOVIA
WITH COLORS BY ELMER SANTOS

CADENCE COMIC ART IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WERTHER DELL'EDERA
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ILLUSTRATED BY CO-CREATOR
WERTHER DELL'EDERA
(RAZORBLADES)

& CO-WRITER
SAM JOHNS
(PUNCHLINE, THE JOKER)

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LETIZIA CADONICI

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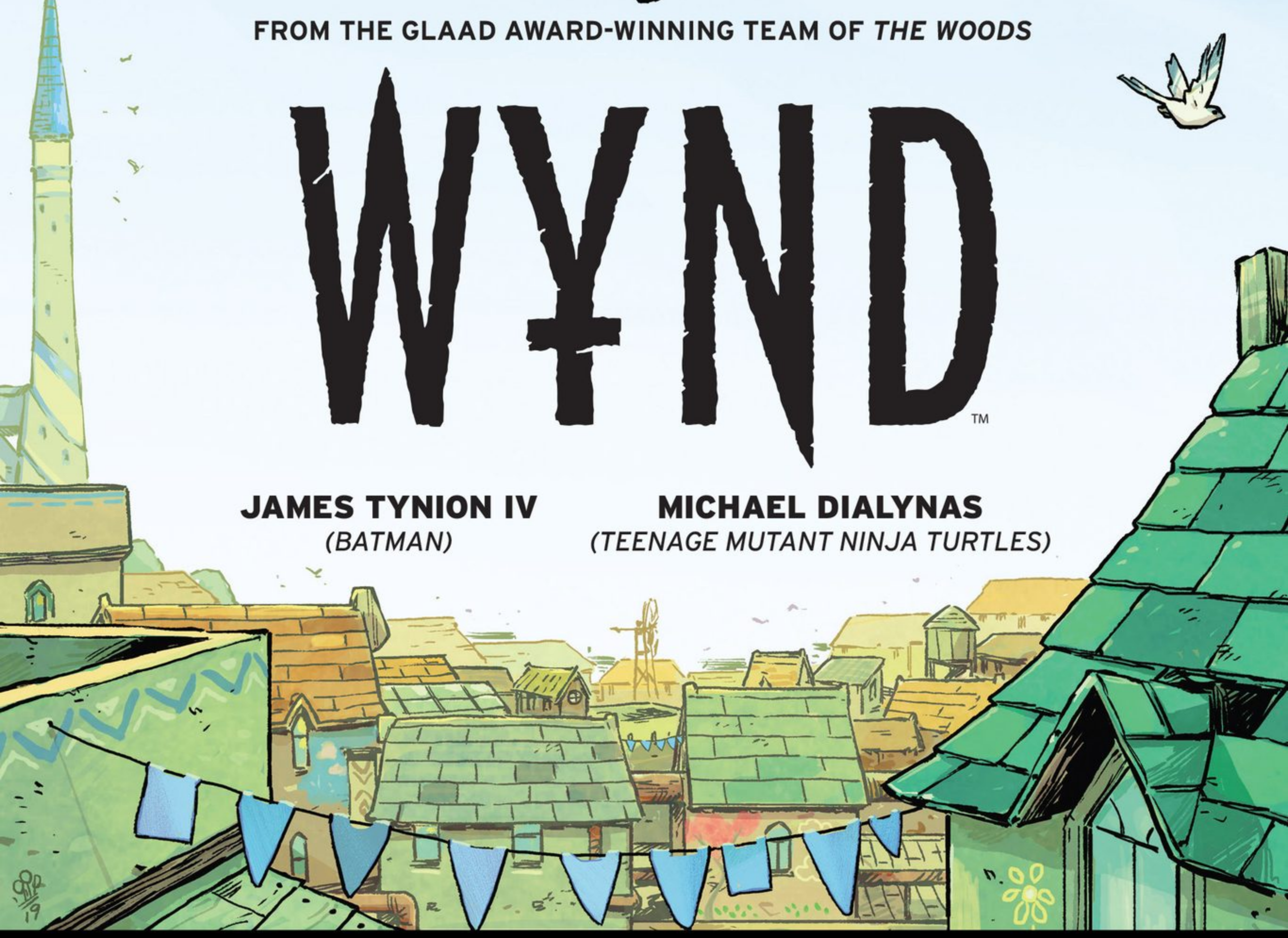
FROM THE GLAAD AWARD-WINNING TEAM OF *THE WOODS*

WYND™

JAMES TYNION IV
(BATMAN)

MICHAEL DIALYNAS
(TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES)



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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING CO-WRITER

MATT KINDT

ILLUSTRATED BY

RON GARNEY

WITH COVERS AND CHARACTER DESIGNS BY

RAFAEL GRAMPÁ

BRZRKR™

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"